

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 CPR-01 SY-05 USSS-00 PRS-01 USIA-06 EUR-12

SP-02 /064 W

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P 091159Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1013

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 18960

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: TRIP BY PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT TO U.S.

REF: BANGKOK 18232

1. SUMMARY. BANGKOK PRESS REPORTS PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT WILL VISIT U.S. AND EUROPE IN NOVEMBER. LATER ASKED BY PRESS TO COMMENT ON REPORT, KHUKRIT SAID NOTHING HAS BEEN DECIDED AND THAT HE HAS MADE NO DEFINITE PLANS TO GO ANYWHERE. TRIP TO BONN IS APPARENTLY FIRM FOR THE FIRST WEEK IN NOVEMBER. VARIOUS SOURCES REPORT POSSIBLE STOPS IN SWITZERLAND, U.K. AND FRANCE, BUT SEVERAL OFFICIALS HAVE DECLINED TO CONFIRM THESE REPORTS IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES BY US. THEY MAY BE WAITING FOR OUR RESPONSE TO FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI'S APPROACH TO DCM AUGUST 28 RE KHUKRIT VISIT TO U.S. (REFTEL). ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH AT LEAST TENTATIVE INDICATION AS TO WHETHER KHUKRIT VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN NOVEMBER IS PRACTICABLE AND IF HIGH-LEVEL APPOINTMENTS CAN BE MADE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN FRONT-PAGE STORY ATTRIBUTED TO QTE
AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE END QTE BANGKOK POST
SEPT. 9 STATES PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT IS PLANNING VISIT
TO U.S. IN NOVEMBER. ARTICLE STATES PURPOSE OF
VISIT IS QTE TO REVIVE RELATIONS AND SEEK
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COOPERATION ON AN EQUAL BASIS AS PART OF THAILAND'S

POLICY OF BALANCING THE SUPERPOWERS END QTE.

3. IN SEPARATE INTERVIEW ALSO PUBLISHED IN POST SEPT 9 DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PRAMAN ADIREKSAN SAID HE HAD URGED KHUKRIT TO VISIT U.S. TO QTE PATCH UP END QTE RELATIONS WITH U.S. GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE. PRAMAN SAID, QTE IN THE KIND OF SITUATION WE ARE FACED WITH IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, WE NEED THE FRIENDSHIP OF THE UNITED STATES END QTE. HE ADDED THAT THAI-U.S. RELATIONS HAD SOURED AS RESULT OF MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT AND MILITANT DEMONSTRATIONS BY STUDENT MINORITY GROUPS. PRAMAN CONTINUED, QTE WE HAVE ESTABLISHED FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. NOW, WE SHOULD RESUME DIALOGUE WITH OLD FRIENDS. END QTE.

4. ACCORDING TO USIS TRANSCRIPT, FOLLOWING EXCHANGE BETWEEN KHUKRIT AND NEWSMEN OCCURRED MORNING SEPTEMBER 9 AFTER POST STORY PUBLISHED:

QUOTE. REPORTER: IS THERE ANY TRUTH IN THE REPORT PUBLISHED IN A NEWSPAPER THIS MORNING THAT YOU WILL PAY OFFICIAL VISITS TO THE UNITED STATES AND WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES?

QUOTE. KHUKRIT: NOTHING HAS BEEN DECIDED FOR CERTAIN YET. I DON'T KNOW WHERE THAT REPORT WAS OBTAINED FROM.

QUOTE. REPORTER: WON'T YOU GO?

QUOTE. KHUKRIT: I HAVE SAID ALREADY THAT I DON'T KNOW, THAT NOTHING WHATSOEVER IS CERTAIN YET. I HAVE ONLY READ THE REPORT PUBLISHED IN A NEWSPAPER, BUT I HAVEN'T MADE ANY PLANS AT ALL TO GO ANYWHERE YET. END QUOTE.

5. IN CONVERSATION WITH GERMAN AMBASSADOR SEPTEMBER 8 AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE WAS INFORMED THAT KHUKRIT PLANS VISIT TO SWITZERLAND, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, AND U.K.; FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE SAID DATES OF VISIT TO GERMANY SET FOR NOVEMBER 2-5. OTHER SOURCES INDICATE THAT ONLY EUROPEAN COUNTRY KHUKRIT WILL VISIT IS GERMANY. SEEMS CLEAR THAT SCOPE OF TRIP IS STILL IN STAGE
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OF PLANNING AND EXPLORATION.

6. COMMENT. MANNER IN WHICH STORY OF KHUKRIT VISIT TO U.S. REPORTED SUGGESTS THAT THIS WAS DELIVERATE LEAK BY RTG; IT MAY BE DESIGNED TO SMOKE OUT RESPONSE FROM U.S. TO FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI'S APPROACH TO DCM AUG 28 REGARDING KHUKRIT VISIT (REFTEL). FOR THE MOMENT, KHUKRIT'S COMMENT TO THE PRESS SEPT 8, THAT THERE IS NOTHING DEFINITE

ABOUT TRIP, COVERS MATTER, BUT PRESSURE WILL
CLEARLY RISE FOR EARLY U.S. RESPONSE ON VISIT, SINCE
U.S. VISIT IS SETPIECE FOR VISIT TO EUROPE AS
WELL. EMBASSY APPRECIATES DIFFICULTY OF COMMITTING
APPOINTMENTS WITH PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY THIS FAR
IN ADVANCE, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO OTHER
PLANS THEY MAY HAVE FOR LAST TWO MONTHS OF YEAR.
HOWEVER, EVEN A TENTATIVE PROMISE OF AN APPOINTMENT
WOULD EASE SITUATION AND PERMIT THAI GOVERNMENT
TO UNDERTAKE DETAILED PLANNING.
WHITEHOUSE

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